

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-2, 4-8 and 12 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A computer program product for implementing electronic commerce systems, each electronic commerce system comprising a web site being accessible by one or more users and comprising a set of on-line stores and a set of organizations, each of the said on-line stores being associated with one of the set of organizations, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code ~~means~~ embodied in said medium, and comprising:

computer readable program code ~~means~~ for representing the users, each user being associated with a unique identity in the system;

computer readable program code ~~means~~ for associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles for a security domain, the access role defining access privileges for the user corresponding to the user identity, the security domain comprising a subset of the set of organizations and the on-line stores associated with the organizations in the subset; and

computer readable program code ~~means~~ for granting or denying access to a user attempting to access a portion of the web site by determining the user identity for the user and determining the access role associated with the user identity for the security domain corresponding to the portion of the web site subject to the access attempt.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 1 further comprising computer readable program code ~~means~~ for carrying out the determination of the access role associated with a user identity for a security domain at user login time.

Claim 3 (original) The computer program product of claim 1 in which the set of access roles comprises registered customer and administrator roles.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 1, further comprising:

computer readable program code means to define the set of organizations as a tree structure, in which the computer readable program code means for associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles further comprises computer readable program code means for associating the user identity with the access role for a selected one of the set of organizations; and

computer readable program code means for defining the security domain to include the selected organization and those organizations in the set that are descendants of the selected organization.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 2, further comprising:

computer readable program code means to define the set of organizations as a tree structure, in which the computer readable program code means for associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles further comprises computer readable program code means for associating the user identity with the access role for a selected one of the set of organizations; and

computer readable program code means for defining the security domain to include the selected organization and those organizations in the set that are descendants of the selected organization.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 3, further comprising:

computer readable program code means to define the set of organizations as a tree structure, in which the computer readable program code means for associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles further comprises computer readable program code means for associating the user identity with the access role for a selected one of the set of organizations; and

~~and further comprising~~ computer readable program code ~~means~~ for defining the security domain to include the selected organization and those organizations in the set that are descendants of the selected organization.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 4 in which the computer readable program code ~~means~~ for associating a user identity with one of a set of accessible roles comprises computer readable program code ~~means~~ for maintaining and providing look up functionality for a table comprising rows comprising data representing user identity, organization, access role associations.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 1, further comprising computer readable program code ~~means~~ for providing user identities with associated access roles at user registration to the web site.

Claim 9 (original) A system for implementing electronic commerce systems, each electronic commerce system comprising a web site being accessible by one or more users and comprising a set of on-line stores and a set of organizations, each of the said on-line stores being associated with one of the set of organizations, the system comprising:

means for representing the users, each user being associated with a unique identity in the system;

means for associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles for a security domain, the access role defining access privileges for the user corresponding to the user identity, the security domain comprising a subset of the set of organizations and the on-line stores associated with the organizations in the subset; and

means for granting or denying access to a user attempting to access a portion of the web site by determining the user identity for the user and determining the access role associated with the user identity for the security domain corresponding to the portion of the web site subject to the access attempt.

Claim 10 (original) The system of claim 9 further comprising means for carrying out the determination of the access role associated with a user identity for a security domain at user logon time.

Claim 11 (original) The system of claim 9 in which the set of access roles comprises registered customer and administrator roles.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means to define the set of organizations as a tree structure, in which the means for associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles further comprises means for associating the user identity with the access role for a selected one of the set of organizations; and

means for defining the security domain to include the selected organization and those organizations in the set that are descendants of the selected organization.

Claim 13 (original) The system of claim 10, further comprising:

means to define the set of organizations as a tree structure, in which the means for associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles further comprises means for associating the user identity with the access role for a selected one of the set of organizations; and

means for defining the security domain to include the selected organization and those organizations in the set that are descendants of the selected organization.

Claim 14 (original) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means to define the set of organizations as a tree structure, in which the means for associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles further comprises means for associating the user identity with the access role for a selected one of the set of organizations; and

means for defining the security domain to include the selected organization and those organizations in the set that are descendants of the selected organization.

Claim 15 (original) The system of claim 12 in which the means for associating a user identity with one of a set of accessible roles comprises means for maintaining and

providing look up functionality for a table comprising rows comprising data representing user identity, organization, access role associations.

Claim 16 (original) The system of claim 9, further comprising means for providing user identities with associated access roles at user registration to the web site.

Claim 17 (original) A method for providing user access to a portion of a web site implemented by an electronic commerce system, the web site being accessible by one or more users and comprising a set of on-line stores and a set of organizations, each of the said on-line stores being associated with one of the set of organizations, the method comprising the steps of:

associating each user with a unique identity in the system;

associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles for a security domain, the access role defining access privileges for the user corresponding to the user identity, the security domain comprising a subset of the set of organizations and the on-line stores associated with the organizations in the subset; and

granting or denying access to a user attempting to access a portion of the web site by determining the user identity for the user and determining the access role associated with the user identity for the security domain corresponding to the portion of the web site subject to the access attempt.

Claim 18 (original) The method of claim 17 in which the step of carrying out the determination of the access role associated with a user identity for a security domain occurs at user login time.

Claim 19 (original) The method of claim 17 in which the set of access roles comprises registered customer and administrator roles.

Claim 20 (original) The method of claim 17 in which the set of organizations is a tree structure, the step of associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles further comprises the step of associating the user identity with the access role for a selected one of the set of organizations,

the security domain includes the selected organization and those organizations in the set that are descendants of the selected organization, and

the step of granting or denying access by determining the access role associated with the user identity for the security domain comprises determining the access role for the user identity by traversing the tree structure of organizations commencing at the selected organization and including the ancestor organizations to the selected organization.

Claim 21 (original) The method of claim 18 in which

the set of organizations is a tree structure,

the step of associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles further comprises the step of associating the user identity with the access role for a selected one of the set of organizations, and

the security domain includes the selected organization and those organizations in the set that are descendants of the selected organization.

Claim 22 (original) The method of claim 19 in which

the set of organizations is a tree structure,

the step of associating a user identity with one of a set of access roles further comprises the step of associating the user identity with the access role for a selected one of the set of organizations, and

the security domain includes the selected organization and those organizations in the set that are descendants of the selected organization.

Claim 23 (original) The method of claim 20 in which the step of associating a user identity with one of a set of accessible roles comprises entering data in a table comprising rows comprising data representing user identity, organization, access role associations.

Claim 24 (original) The method of claim 17 in which the step of providing user identities with associated access roles occurs at the time of user registration to the web site.